

Medical Officer of Health Annual Report 1948

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have to honour to submit my report for 1948. The health of the City during the year was good. There was an epidemic of measles towards the end of the year which continued into 1949. Fortunately the infection was a comparatively mild one and there were no deaths.

The crude birth rate at 17.8 was slightly lower than the rate for the whole of England and Wales and the death rate at 11.9 was higher but crude rates are not strictly comparable.

The infant mortality rate at 61 per thousand live births gives cause for concern as it is very much higher than the rate for England and Wales which was 34. When dealing with small populations such statistics are not particularly informative however. In this case we have 14 infant deaths out of a total of 230 births which means that each death alters the rate by more than 4 so that had there been 5 deaths less our rate would have been the same as the general rate. In a large population 5 extra infant deaths would affect the mortality rate only very slightly. ...

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	...	...	...	...	...	2,450 acres
Population	...	...	...	...	...	12,950
No. of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	3,900
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£84,572
Product of 1d. rate	...	...	...	...	...	£ 330

VITAL STATISTICSLive Births

Males	121	Females	109	- Total	230
Crude Birth Rate, per 1,000 population, Truro City					17.8
" " " " " "				England & Wales	17.9

Still Births

Males	5	Females	4	- Total	9
Rate per thousand live & still births				-	38

Deaths

Males	69	Females	85	- Total	154
Crude Death Rate, per 1,000 population, Truro City					11.9
" " " " " "				England & Wales	10.8

Deaths of Infants under one year

Males	9	Females	5	- Total	14
Rate per 1,000 live births, Truro City					61
" " " " " "				England & Wales	34

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH

1.	Typhoid etc.	...	...	-
2.	Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	-
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	-
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	-
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	-
6.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	6
7.	Tuberculosis, other forms	...	...	-
8.	Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	-
9.	Influenza	...	...	-
10.	Measles	...	...	-
11.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	-
12.	Acute Encephalitis	...	...	-
13-16.	Cancer, all parts	...	...	16
17.	Diabetes	...	...	3
18.	Intracranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	20
19.	Heart Diseases	...	...	43
20.	Other Diseases, circulatory system	...	...	5
21.	Pneumonia	...	...	4
22.	Bronchitis	...	...	6
23.	Other Respiratory conditions.	...	...	1
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum.	...	...	2
25.	Diarrhoea, under 2 years	...	...	-
26.	Appendicitis	...	...	-
27.	Other Diseases, Digestive system	...	...	2
28.	Nephritis	...	...	3
29.	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	-
30.	Other Maternal causes	...	...	-
31.	Premature Birth	...	...	3
32.	Congenital Malformation, birth injuries, disease of early infancy	...	...	8
33.	Suicide	...	...	-
34.	Road Traffic accidents	...	...	1
35.	Other violent causes	...	...	1
36.	All other causes	...	...	30
	Total	...	...	<u>154</u>

HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH

These remained as before. The transition on 5th July, 1948, had little or no effect. It is to be hoped that it will not be long before adequate accommodation will be provided in which the necessary clinics can be held. At present the infant and immunising clinics are held in a hall, rented by the session, which is just about as unsatisfactory for the purpose of a clinic as any place could be. Other clinics do not exist.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following tables indicate the infectious diseases notified during the year.

Age Group	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Acute Poliomyelitis		Measles		Diphtheria	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-
1 - 3	-	1	-	-	-	-	9	15	-	-
3 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	8	-	-
5 -10	3	-	2	1	-	-	62	77	-	-
10 -15	-	-	-	-	1	-	21	4	-	-
15 -25	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	2	-	-
25 +	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
	3	1	2	1	2	-	109	108	-	2
Totals	4		3		2		217		2	

Age Group	Pneumonia		Ac:Encephalitis Lethargica		Enteric or Typhoid		Erysipelas		Cerebro-spinal Fever	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -15	1	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
15 -45	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
45 -65	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 +	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2	7	-	1	-	1	3	-	1	-
Totals	9		1		1		3		1	

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	3	1	-	1	-	1	-	-
25 - 35	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
65 +	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	6	5	-	1	3	3	-	-
Totals	11		1		6		-	

The two cases of acute poliomyelitis occurred at Truro School. Both were fatal but the deaths were, for some reason, transferred to the Districts in which the boys homes were situated. There was no means of ascertaining where or how the boys were infected but as their homes were widely separated and as they fell ill almost simultaneously, it is most probable that they were infected at the same time and in the same place.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

The monthly clinic for the immunisation of children against diphtheria was very poorly attended. This was compensated to some extent by the number of immunisations done by general practitioners.

160 children under 5 years of age and 8 between the ages of 5 and 14 years were immunised during the year. One child previously immunised received a booster dose.

V.E. WHITMAN
Medical Officer of Health

TRURO CITY COUNCIL

REPORT BY Mr. H.C. LISTER, CITY SANITARY INSPECTOR, on the SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH

WATER SUPPLY:

The district is supplied by the Truro Water Company. During the year 29 samples were taken for bacteriological examination and three samples for chemical analysis. Of these one sample proved unsatisfactory from a bacteriological point of view due to the presence of coliform organisms in appreciable number. The strange features of the case were that a sample taken on the same day from the rising main proved satisfactory, and that a comparator test revealed free chlorine present in the supply at the time the unsatisfactory sample was taken. As soon as the unsatisfactory result came through a further sample was taken and this proved similarly unsatisfactory. A detailed investigation failed to reveal the cause, and further samples failed to reveal a recurrence of the trouble. The supply has proved adequate, and apart from this one brief lapse proved to be of good quality.

There are approximately 3,900 dwelling houses, but at present no record appears to exist to show the number of houses having an internal piped supply from the main or the number relying on an external supply by means of a communal yard tap or otherwise. It is known that the City is served generally with a main supply with the exception of a few farms, a few isolated cottages on the perimeter. The necessary facts and figures are being compiled, and these will be included in the next Annual Report.

SEWAGE:

The unsewered areas of the City continue to be a cause for anxiety. The Bodmin Road Sewer Extension involving some 800 yards run of sewer was completed during the year, and a scheme for the extension of the sewer in the Tresawles Road area was prepared covering approximately 1,250 yards run of sewer. The importance of proceeding with a scheme to serve the Dobbs Lane area cannot be over-emphasised, and I understand it is the Council's intention to put this in hand on the completion of the Tresawles Road scheme.

MEAT & OTHER FOODS:

No slaughtering takes place within the City area - the centralised slaughterhouse is at Chacewater within the Truro Rural District area. During the year, however, one dropsical sheep carcase, two emaciated and dropsical cow carcasses and one carcase of beef were condemned at the Meat Depot in the City.

Food condemned during the year :-

Canned Meat	-	92
Canned Fish	-	256
Canned Milk	-	189
Preserves	-	165
Canned Fruit	-	526
C. Vegetables	-	219
Fish(various)	-	138 $\frac{1}{4}$ stone
Chee se	-	61 lbs.
Cooking Fats	-	57 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Sausages	-	84 lbs.
Macaroni	-	100 lbs.
Pork	-	18 lbs.
Beef	-	186 lbs.
126 Packets		Pudding Mixture.
20 lbs.		Frozen Egg Powder.
One Ox.		Tongue.
2 $\frac{1}{2}$ doz.		Lettuce.
6 tins of		Soup.

SHELLFISH:

During the year samples of Cockles and Winkles were taken from the Calenick Creek, and in case were found to be heavily contaminated with B. Coli and Ch: Welchii. 0% were found to be clean. As a result of this the Truro City Council in pursuance of para.6 of the Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations 1934, made an absolute Order prohibiting the taking of Shellfish from the Creek. At the end of the year the Ministry's observations were awaited thereon.

W.C.

ACCOMMODATION:

During the year the inadequacy of the W.C. accommodation serving many dwelling houses in the City received attention. Additional accommodation was provided in several cases as a result of an approach to the owners concerned.

FACTORIES' ACT

1937:

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. - INSPECTIONS for purpose of provisions as to health.

PREMISES	M/c line No.	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted	M/c line No.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by L.Authorities.	1	34	-	-	-	
2. Factories not included in 1. in which 7 is enforced by the L.Authorities.	2	84	10	1	-	
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	3	1				
TOTAL		119	10	1	-	

2. - CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

PARTICULARS	M/c line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found			
		Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	9	1	1		1
(b) unsuitable or defective	10				
(c) not separate for sexes	11				
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	2	2		1
TOTAL:.....		3	3		2

1.	<u>Public Health Act 1936</u>		
	(a) Drainage	-	94
	(b) Housing	-	63
	(c) Water supply	-	9
	(d) Infestation	-	5
	(e) Accumulations	-	7
	(f) Refuse Collection	-	7
	(g) General	-	5
			<u>190</u>
2.	<u>Housing Acts</u>		
	(a) Inspection of Dwellings	-	25
	(b) Inspection re. applications for Council Houses	-	65
	(c) Common Lodging Houses	-	1
			<u>91</u>
3.	<u>Milk & Dairies Order</u>	-	31
4.	<u>Food & Drugs Act</u>		
	(a) Premises	-	15
	(b) Food Condemnation	-	74
	(c) Icecream	-	16
	(d) General	-	6
			<u>111</u>
5.	<u>Factories Act</u>	-	10
6.	<u>Rats & Lice Destructions</u>	-	12
7.	<u>Shops Act</u>	-	8
8.	<u>Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations</u>	-	8
9.	<u>Hackney Carriages</u>	-	6
10.	<u>Miscellaneous</u>	-	12
			<u>TOTAL..... 479</u>
	<u>Informal Notices served</u>		
	(a) P.H.A. 1936	-	52
	(b) H.A. 1936	-	2
	(c) Milk & Dairies Order	-	3

H.C. LISTER,

CITY SANITARY INSPECTOR

October, 1949.

HCL/VA.

